

**Impression of my Epicenter visit in Burkina Faso
(by Alexandra Koch, Managing Director, The Hunger Project Switzerland)**

I visited 2 Epicenters in Burkina Faso from February 11 to February 14, 2013. I participated in the inauguration of the Boulkon Epicenter and visited the Vowogdo Epicenter, which is in phase 3. I was very impressed with the accomplished work and the pride in the eyes of the epicenter committees and partners.

In a meeting in the Vowogdo Epicenter, about 50 villagers (partners) introduced themselves with their functions within the epicenter: I've got a great impression what it all takes to set up the infrastructure and programs. They mention that they benefit a lot from the trainings. It has changed their lives. Crucial is that they are treated as partners and take self-reliant actions to improve their lives and conditions in their communities."



180 women are involved in the Soap Production thanks to the Microfinance Program



With the help of a cereal grinding mill that was financed by the food security program, partners in 10 villages living close to the Vowogdo Epicenter spend much less time hand-grinding and can devote more time to other activities, such as income-generating activities or instructional classes. Moreover, these mothers can now more closely follow their children's performance in school.



These partners manage the storage of food in the Epicenter. This enables villagers to safely store crops, protecting them against food emergencies and food-price fluctuations.

